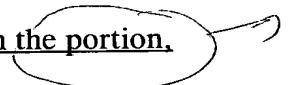


IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A sign unit which is adapted to be supported with at least a portion exposed to incident light, comprising a sheet-like device (1) with a front (3) exhibiting the information of the sign unit and with a back (4) opposite to the front, and at least one light-emitting member (2) which is arranged on the sheet-like device, characterized in that said the wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) has a front end (5) which is positioned at or in front of the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and a rear opposite end (6), that said the at least one light-emitting member (2) is made of a fluorescent plastic material and has a thickness which is considerably smaller than its length between said the front (5) and rear (6) ends, said the at least one light-emitting member (2) being adapted to absorb, between said the ends (5, 6), incident light (13) and conduct this to /1 the front end (5) for emission (26) at the front (3) of the sign unit, wherein the portion, 
projecting from the sheet-like device, of the at least one light-emitting member is enclosed
in a casing which is fixed to the device and which is made of a transparent material, and the
casing is coated with a diffusion layer for spreading and leveling the incident light over an
entire light-absorbing surface of the at least one light-emitting member.

2. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the sheet-like device (1) has at least one through slot (14), that the at least one

light-emitting member (2) is arranged in said the slot (14), and that said the at least one light-emitting member (2) is included in the information of the sign unit.

3. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein said the at least one light-emitting member (2) is inserted into the associated slot in the sheet-like device (1) in such manner that the front end (5) of said the at least one light-emitting member (2) is positioned at the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and its the rear opposite end (6) of the at least one light-emitting member is positioned at a considerable distance behind the back (4) of the device (1).

CK

4. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is a sheet-like element which is one of straight and/or and curved in cross-section.

5. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

6. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

7. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a number of elements in the shape of one of a sheet (2, 2', 2''), a tube (19) and/or and a rod (12).

8. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that A sign unit which is adapted to be supported with at least a portion exposed to incident light, comprising a sheet-like device with a front exhibiting information of the sign unit and with a back opposite to the front, and at least one light-emitting member which is arranged on the sheet-like device, wherein the at least one light-emitting member has a front end which is positioned at or in front of the front of the sheet-like device and a rear opposite end, that the at least one light-emitting member is made of a fluorescent plastic material and has a thickness which is considerably smaller than its length between the front and rear ends, the at least one light-emitting member being adapted to absorb, between the ends, incident light and conduct this to the front end for emission at the front of the sign unit, wherein the length between the ends (5, 6) of the at least one light-emitting member (2) increases from the an upper portion of said the at least one light-emitting member in the a mounted state of the sign unit (1) towards the a lower portion (6') of the at least one light-emitting member.

9. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the, wherein edge sides (6-8) of the at least one light-emitting member (2) which are not

intended to emit light ~~are provided with emission-preventing means, such as a reflective coating (25), a prismatic body (22), a mirror element or the like prevent emissions.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the portion (10, 11), projecting from the sheet-like device (1), of the at least one light-emitting member (2) is enclosed in a casing (16) which is fixed to said the device (1) and which is made of a transparent material.

11. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the casing (16) is coated with a diffusion layer (17) for spreading and leveling the incident light (13) over the an entire light-absorbing surface (10, 11) of the at least one light-emitting member (2).

12. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises an inner portion (18) and, surrounding the same, an outer portion (19), and that a light-guiding element (23) with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged adjacent to and along the outer portion (19) and inside the same, that a first reflective device (22) is arranged at the rear end of the outer portion (19) in order to reflect light from said the portion (19) into one end of the light-guiding element (23), and that a second reflective device (24) is arranged at the other

opposite end of the light-guiding element (23) to reflect light from the light-guiding element (23) into the other portion (18).

13. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises an inner member (2") and, surrounding the same, outer members (2, 2'), and that the inner member (2") projects from the rear end (6) of the surrounding member/members (2, 2').

14. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that wherein the front end (5) of the inner member (2") is arranged at a distance behind the back (4) of the sheet-like device (1), and that a light-guiding element (23) with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged between said the front end (5) and the sheet-like device (1).

15. Canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is a sheet-like element which is one of straight and/or and curved in cross-section.

17. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"

Application No. 10/022,242
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003
Page 8

18. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

19. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or
bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

20. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or
bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.
